(c) what are the details of funds provided to voluntary organisations and State run hostels during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Harassment of passengers of Mahakoshal Express

587. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the passengers of two tier and three tier sleeper coaches are being harassed by the unauthorised passengers who enters the reserved compartment of Mahakoshal Express by force ignoring threatening the passengers and Railways staff between Jabalpur and Jhansi;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in affirmative, what steps have been taken by Government to check the harassment of authorised passengers and checking staff of the Railways;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in negative, whether Government are considering to use Railways flying squad to ascertain and assess the tense situation prevalent in Mahakoshal Express created due to unauthorised passengers; and

(d) if so, by when and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A few instances have come to notice.

(b) to (d) Regular/intensive checks are being conducted by the Flying Squads in Mahakoshal Express to check the entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and persons found travelling unauthorisedly are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Indian Railways Act.

Scarcity of drinking water in Madhya Pradesh

588. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scarcity of drinking water in a number of districts in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof

(c) whether some of the districts of Madhya Pradesh have been facing the perennial shortage of drinking water;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) in what manner Government propose to make a long term plan to eradicate shortage of drinking water forever in these districts; and

(f) what are the plans of Government to use river water for meeting the shortage of drinking water in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, 351 towns and 12180 villages in Madhya Pradesh are affected by scarcity of drinking water.

(c) and (d) The State Government has reported that due to scanty rainfall over the last year in major parts of Madhya Pradesh, all the 45 districts in the State are continuously affected by drinking water scarcity.

(e) The State Govt. has prepared a long term plan of Integrated Water Supply Projects for water conservation, water recharging and water shed management to tackle shortage of drinking water in the districts.

(f) The State Government has adopted river water as source of water supply wherever feasible and cost effective. At present, there are 116 towns in the State where the water supply schemes are based on river water.

589. [*Transferred to the 17th May, 1990*].